

b. a biaxially oriented core layer bonded to said surface layer and contiguous to and coextruded with said surface layer, said core layer having a thickness greater than said surface layer, said core layer formed of ethylene-propylene copolymer having an isotactic structure and containing ethylene in an amount of no more than 1 wt.% which is effective to provide an inter-layer bond strength with said surface layer which is at least 15 percent greater than the inter-layer bond strength between said surface layer and a film formed of isotactic polypropylene homopolymer.

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2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The combination of claim 1, wherein said core layer has an average thickness within the range of 5 microns to 150 microns and said surface layer has a thickness within the range of 0.3 microns to 80 microns, said surface layer having a thickness less than said core layer.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The combination of claim 1, wherein said ethylene-propylene copolymer contains ethylene in an amount between 0.05 weight percent and 0.8 weight percent.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The combination of claim 1, wherein said ethylene-propylene copolymer contains ethylene in an amount between 0.1 weight percent and 0.2 weight percent.

7. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The combination of claim 31, wherein said core layer formed of ethylene-propylene copolymer contains ethylene in an amount between 0.5 weight

percent and 0.7 weight percent.

8. **(ORIGINAL)** The combination of claim 1, further comprising:

c. a third layer of said polyolefin film contiguous to said surface layer, said third layer comprising a polymer.

9. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** The combination of claim 8, wherein said third layer comprises a thermoplastic polymer capable of forming a heat seal with a corresponding thermoplastic film upon heating to an elevated temperature and compression.

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10. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** The combination of claim 8, wherein said third layer constitutes a second surface layer capable of forming a heat seal with said surface layer upon heating to an elevated temperature and compression.

Claims 11 – 26 **(CANCELED)**

27. **(PREVIOUSLY ADDED)** The combination of claim 9 wherein said surface layer and said third layer each have an average thickness which is less than the average thickness of said core layer.

28. **(PREVIOUSLY AMENDED)** The combination of claim 9 wherein the ethylene-propylene copolymer of said core layer contains ethylene in an amount within the range of 0.05-0.8 wt.%.

29. **(CANCELED)**

30. **(CANCELED)**

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a multi-layer biaxially oriented polyolefin film, the combination comprising:

a. a biaxially oriented surface layer of said film comprising a thermoplastic polymer capable of forming a heat seal with a corresponding thermoplastic polymer upon heating to an elevated temperature and compression; and

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b. a biaxially oriented core layer bonded to said surface layer and contiguous to and coextruded with said surface layer, said core layer having a thickness greater than said surface layer, said core layer formed of ethylene-propylene copolymer having an isotactic structure and containing ethylene in an amount of no more than 1 wt.% which is effective to provide an inter-layer bond strength with said surface layer which is at least 50 percent greater than the inter-layer bond strength between said surface layer and a film formed of isotactic polypropylene homopolymer.

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a multi-layer biaxially oriented polyolefin film, the combination comprising:

a. a biaxially oriented surface layer of said film comprising a thermoplastic polymer capable of forming a heat seal with a corresponding thermoplastic polymer upon heating to an elevated temperature and compression; and

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b. a biaxially oriented core layer bonded to said surface layer and contiguous to and coextruded with said surface layer, said core layer having a thickness greater than said surface layer, said core layer formed of ethylene-propylene copolymer having an isotactic structure and containing ethylene in an amount between 0.3 and 0.5 wt.% which is effective to provide an inter-layer bond strength with said surface layer which is at least 30 percent greater than the inter-layer bond strength between said surface layer and a film formed of isotactic polypropylene homopolymer.
